AIRSLetter

'97

The AIRSLetter is a quarterly publication produced by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards, Information Transfer & Program Integration Division. It is intended to provide information and emerging issues related to the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS).

What's Inside!!			
Article Name	Page #		
General AIRS Articles			
Notes From Ed	1		
'97 AIRS Conference - Washington	1		
Deadline for Next AIRSLetter	2		
AQS Articles			
AQS: Re-engineering Status	3		
AQS Web Access Development			
Prototype Testing Starting Soon	5		
AQS Data Being Cleaned Up	5		
AQS Re-engineering Hits the Ro	oad		
	6		
Modifications Being Made	6		
AQS Training	7		
AFS Articles			
AFS Caucus Results Compiled	8		
Additional Response Encourage	ed		
	10		
AFS Data Available on Internet	10		
RO 8 Develops Web Page	11		
New Batch Update Software	11		
Note on Merging	12		
Adding Permit Data to the Plant			
Compliance Inventory F	ixed		
Format Report	12		
Contacts:			
http://www.epa.gov/airs/contact.pdf			
General AIRS	C-1		
AQS Contacts	C-2		
AFS Emissions	C-8		
AFS Compliance	C-12		
AFS Toxics	C-17		
AFS Permits	C-18		

Notes From Ed

I want to thank each of you who attended the recent AIRS conference. We received a lot of helpful feedback, both at the formal sessions and during hallway conversations. We also appreciate the comments you provided on the evaluation forms. We plan to make some of your suggested changes at next years conference.

My sense is that you feel that Andrea and the AQS re-engineering team are headed in the right direction. We heard a lot of good comments about the demo and the prototype. We want to thank the States and local agency representatives of the AQS Technical Advisory Group, as well as the EPA Regional office reps., who have assisted us throughout the development effort. We are grateful for having such a dedicated group to help in the reengineering effort.

We also appreciate all those agencies that have signed up to test the new AQS prior to it going into production. In addition to assisting us, we think the test program will give you the opportunity to debug any equipment or connectivity problems (technical as well as administrative) you may have at your end with the new AQS. The free software for participating agencies has been ordered and should be delivered to you soon.

Regarding AFS, we are currently reevaluating the future plans for AFS and the National Emissions Trends data base that were

presented at the Conference as a result of the comments and concerns that we heard. As Chuck explains in his article on page 10, we would still like to receive formal comments from state and local agencies to our proposed plans. We want to make some final decisions in the next month or so, so we encourage agencies to submit any comments to us in the next few weeks if you can.

Again, thanks for all your efforts.

'97 AIRS Conference - Washington, D.C.

by Jerry Husketh

If you weren't there you missed a good one! The Eighth National AIRS Conference was held April 21-25, 1997 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. and it may have been the best yet. We had a big ol'

AIRSLetter Page: 2
Volume X - Edition 3
June, 1997

Continued from "97 AIRS Conference -Washington, D.C." - page 1

time. Why, we had Macarena dancers (unplanned, of course). We had the D.C. Mayor (unscheduled, of course). And we even had Indian Rain Makers (unplanned also). But what set this conference apart from all the previous conferences was the fact that people actually laughed at my jokes about Chuck Isbell.

Seriously, it was a tremendous success. Tom Link had 'em oohing and aahing over the new and improved AIRS Graphics. Andrea and Bonnie and Jonathan and Jake packed 'em in the AQS Reengineering sessions. The computer demo room was a big hit with Internet connections to the world. We had 310 people from just about everywhere, including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. They were trained on Monday and again on Friday in the use of the subsystems. They were fed and watered. Their 'meeting meters' were tested for maximum capacity and overload protection, but they kept on meeting. Some were dismayed to hear that EPA still didn't have all of the answers to their questions. Some were shocked to hear that EPA didn't have total 'buy-in' among its troops on what the subsystems should offer and what they should do for its customers, the states and local agencies. But that didn't stop 'em from comin' back for more. Answers to their questions, that is. And Jack Lehman won the door prize. No, not Chuck's new Lincoln. Chuck kept that for himself!

On Wednesday evening we had 160 AIRS-types (we are a special breed, you know) and their guests load up for a trolley tour of the 16 most prominent monuments in the D.C. area for the annual retreat. Ol' Abe and T.J. (Thomas Jefferson) were very popular as usual, but the Vietnam Wall and the Nurses Memorial brought back the most memories. And probably the most tears. Oh yeah, the White House was beautiful at night. A good time was had by all in spite of a cool, rainy night.

If you didn't make this one be sure to plan now to attend the next one. It's scheduled for April 20-24, 1998 in none-other-than sunny, but cold, San Francisco, California! Stay tuned for an announcement about the host hotel (we're still negotiating).

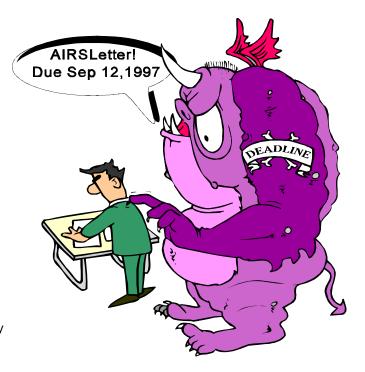
AIRSLetter Deadline for Fall Edition Set

by Jonathan Miller

As you all my be aware, the AIRSLetter is a quarterly publication written, edited, and distributed by the Information Management Group of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication on any relevant topic. If you agency is having a conference or training that others may wish to attend, or whatever, write an article, send it in, and let people know!

If you would like to send in an article, please send via e-mail to

Miller.Jonathan@epamail.epa.gov. Most word processing formats are acceptable. As always, the editor (that's me) reserves the right to make editorial changes. Please submit your articles by Friday, September 12, 1997.



AIRSLetter Page: 3
Volume X - Edition 3
June, 1997



AQS Re-engineering Status and Plans

by Andrea Kelsey

What a great AIRS Conference for the AQS Re-engineering Team! We were delighted with the interest and participation from all of the attendees of the re-engineering sessions. Since no new major issues were identified, that must mean the Technical Advisory Group has done an excellent job of representing the needs of the entire user community. Of course we realize that a lot more technical and functional issues need to be further refined, but we did leave with the feeling that most users like what we are proposing and support our technical direction as well. Bonnie will soon have the AQS Conference information on the AIRS Web Home Page for your review.

With your support, we are continuing with the design and development of this new system. Since there are several products associated with this effort, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss them here.

Prototype

A small prototype was developed to demonstrate the proposed user interface for specific client functions in the new system. By saying the word "client" I am talking about the registered users who will be installing and executing this software for updating, standard and ad-hoc retrievals. This product is not intended for public access. This prototype was demonstrated at the AIRS Conference working from a PC Oracle data base. It is currently being revised to operate on a central Oracle database at the EPA National Computer Center on a UNIX server. The prototype database will only contain ozone data for two states. At the conference we asked for volunteers to test this prototype, mainly for feedback on the user interface, but also secondarily to test out the installation and execution of this software from the remote end-user desktop. We plan to begin end-user testing of this prototype in July. Please see Bonnie's article for more information.

Interim Database Also in July we plan to have a different Oracle data base on EPA's public access server. This data base will contain live data for site, monitor, annual summary, hourly and daily data, along with reference info, for up to 15 years of raw data. The purpose of this interim database is to make the current AQS data publicly accessible and to test out the performance of public access from a large volume database. Access to this database will be incorporated into the AIRSWEB product, probably in August. The main capability to be added to the existing AIRSWEB retrievals will be the ability for the public to extract data files directly from the World Wide Web (WWW) via this interim data base instead of accessing the mainframe or requesting data through the Freedom of Information Act requests (FOIA's). In creating this data base, some conversion issues have arisen. Please see Jake and Jonathan's article for more details.

Beta Testing

In the January to March, 1998, time frame we hope to have our volunteer end-user testers actually test the client software that we intend to install in production. This beta testing will help ensure that the end-user can function effectively with this new client software from his or her desktop, as well as identify any bugs that may exist.

Production

Actual production of this system is still scheduled for April, 1998. We will be assessing the training requirement to ensure that end users have the opportunity to receive appropriate training and user manuals. Undoubtably, we will also have more conversion issues to deal with to convert over all of the appropriate data from the existing AQS into the production data base. At this point, the interim and prototype data bases will no longer be supported since we will be in an operation mode. The client software and the WWW access for the public will access the production data base.

AIRSLetter Page: 4
Volume X - Edition 3 June, 1997

Continued from "AQS Re-engineering Status and Plans" - page 3

In summary, we certainly have our work cut out for us in the next year. From a hardware/software requirement standpoint, things keep changing as more decisions are made by us and by the EPA folks in the Enterprise Technology Services Division who operate the NCC. Some good news in that area is that we once thought that those of you who will be using the new AQS client software would have to purchase SQL-NET to access the AQS Oracle data base. It has now been determined that EPA can provide this product with the client software for free. However, for on-line and ad-hoc retrievals we are using the Discoverer 3.0 Oracle tool that you will probably want to purchase. (Please remember that public access via the WWW only requires the Netscape browser.) We apologize as things change but since this technology is so new, policies and products are evolving at a very quick pace. We realize that the various deliverables and hardware/software requirements can be confusing since this is all new. Please don't hesitate to call any of us on the AQS re-engineering Team for more information.

AQS Web Access in Development Phase

by Jonathan Miller

The outputs subteam of the ART group have been meeting on final design discussion with our contractor (OAO) for the past month. We are now beginning to see our efforts put into action! We are currently providing comments to OAO on queries they have developed from the SITE table. Although this initial version is not perfect, it is still encouraging to see things actually happening! All indications are that we are still on track to provide access to AQS by the end of July.15 years of AQS data (not including composite or P&A data), plus 8-hour running averages for ozone will be accessible via the July Web product. The following tables will be accessible in this first release:

Air Quality Data Tables:

Site Information

- Tangent Street Information

Monitor Information

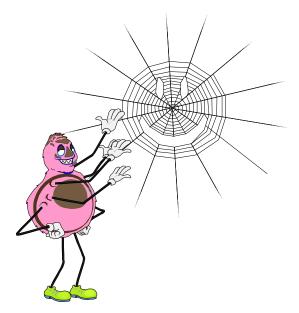
- Road Description
- Monitor Type
- Reporting Organization
- Probe Obstructions
- Sampling Period
- Monthly Sampling Schedule
- Monitor Objective Table

Hourly/Daily Raw Data Annual Summaries Reference Tables:
State Descriptions
County Descriptions
City Description
Agency
CMSA Descriptions
EPA Region Descriptions
Air Basin Descriptions
Urban Area Descriptions
MSA Descriptions
MSA/County File
AQCR Descriptions

Geographic

Status Areas

Description Reference Tables: AQCR Type* Agency Type* Audit Class* Compass Sector* Conversion Parameter Dominant Source* Exceptional Data Flag* Horizontal Datum* Land Use* Monitoring Season Locational Setting* Measurement Scale* Met Site Type* Method* Monitor Type Codes* Monitor Obj. Codes* Obstruction Type*



Probe Location Codes*
Project Class. Codes*
Sampling Frequencies*
Interval Codes*
LDP Map Scale*
Traffic Source Codes*
Type Road Codes*
Unit Codes*
LDP Unit Codes*
Worst Site Codes*
Siting Criteria Met Codes*

AIRSLetter Page: 5
Volume X - Edition 3
June, 1997

Prototype Testing Starting Soon

by Bonnie Johnson

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to participate in the testing of the Re-engineered AQS!

The first phase of this testing is scheduled to begin in July. At that point you will be testing and commenting on the general <u>look and feel</u> of the new application. This will also give us a chance to resolve some connectivity and installation issues. We hope you've got the recommended hardware and basic software ready! The Oracle tool, Discoverer 3.0 (User Edition) CD ROM has been ordered for you. This is the latest release of the Discoverer tool and replaces

Discoverer/2000. It also includes SQL*NET. We are busily working on some revisions to the prototype screens before sending the client software to you.

Here are those recommendations again:

- PC Processor
 - Minimum 486/33Mhz
 - Recommended Pentium 120 or better
- Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 4.0 or later
- RAM
 - Windows 95 24 MB or more
 - Windows NT 32 MB or more
- Disk Space:
 - 80 to 180MB (Discoverer 3.0 will take 60MB to install; Client Software will start at about 10MB and grow; additional space for files you create using the tool)
- SVGA with 256 colors
- Internet connection (IP address) and a browser (e.g., Netscape)
- Mouse
- CD ROM



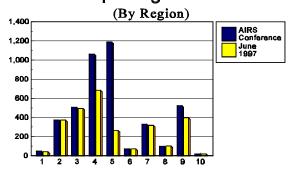
Get Ready: You will soon be contacted for additional information necessary to set up your account for the Prototype database. We will be verifying your name, E-mail address, and agency, and asking for your TSSMS user-id (EPA mainframe user-id) and your Internet Protocol (IP) address if you are outside the EPA network. (Ask your systems people what your IP address is if you're not sure.) Access may not be granted to dynamically-assigned IP addresses such as those controlled by third-party organizations (this means America online and other Internet service providers). We will be looking into possible solutions if that is a major problem for you.

AQS Data Being Cleaned-Up

by Jonathan Miller & Jake Summers

One of the major stumbling blocks in the reengineering projects has been answering "Where do we correct data that is obviously wrong - in the current AIRS or in an external conversion program?" We felt like we would try to work with State and Regions in identifying most of the errors in the current data base and attempt to correct them there before they are converted to the new system. To date, we have concentrated our efforts on making sure the proper field lengths are being used in the data base, the methods table (AQCAM) is properly

Number of Active Monitors "Not Reporting Data"



set up, and there are valid codes in the code fields. You may be contacted in the next few weeks where we have found some anomalous data that belongs to you. Please understand our intent. We, by no means, want to cause any embarrassment or "finger pointing" for anyone. All we want is the data to be

AIRSLetter Page: 6
Volume X - Edition 3
June, 1997

Continued from "AQS Data Being Cleaned-Up" - page 5

corrected, and we will assist you in any way that we can to accomplish this effort. One area that was identified at the AIRS Conference was the need for sampling end dates to be placed on inactive monitors. I am happy to say that as of June 6, nearly 1,500 monitor records have had "Sampling Ended Dates" applied to them since the AIRS conference (See figure page 5). This is quite an accomplishment and we thank you. We hope to continue to rely on your help in correcting other aspects of the data, so keep watching your mailbox. If you see a letter from Jake Summers or Jonathan Miller, please don't throw it away!

AQS Re-engineering Hits the Road!

by Jonathan Miller

Since the AIRS conference, we have been invited to several Regional and State offices to demonstrate the prototype and to present plans for the re-engineered AQS. We attended the STAPPA-ALAPCO meeting held in Bolton Landing, New York and demoed the new AQS to the State and local agency Directors who attended the meeting. The visits have been well received to date. So, remember: if you are having a conference and would like for us to attend, please let us know. We won't promise that we will be able to make it to every event, but we would certainly like to continue our outreach efforts. Here is a map of where we have been so far. Because of travel dollar problems, we do not anticipate many other visits this fiscal year.



AIRSLetter Page: 7
Volume X - Edition 3
June, 1997

Modifications Being Made to AQS

by Michael Hamlin

Here is a list of software modifications and enhancements currently being worked on in AQS:

Requestor	Program Affected	Description	Status
Jonathan Miller	AMP220	The default sort needs to be modified.	Being created under SRF # 1039
Jonathan Miller	AMP380	Data from the report does not appear in the browse when monitor = U.	Being created under SRF # 1040
Michael Hamlin	AMP355	Problem occurring in printing data for the leap year.	Being created under SRF# 1046
Jonathan Miller	AMP 430	Data completeness does not seem to be calculating correctly.	Being created under SRF# 1047
Jonathan Miller		Problems with the CMSA/MSA represented when a PAMS site is specified.	Being created under SRF# 1048

you have found some strange items while creating reports, updating data, browsing, or whatever, call the AIRS AQS Helpline at 1-800-334-2405 x422 and let them know.

AIRS-AQS and TSO/ISPF Training

by Michael Hamlin

We are planning to give a three day AIRS (AQS) training class in Research Triangle Park, NC from August 19 - 21. Depending on interest, a one day training session on general IBM mainframe computing skills will be held on Monday (8/18). Such things as looking at Jobs, printing/spinning job output, creating & editing datasets, and any other TSO/ISPF topics that users may have. If anyone is interested in participating in the training, please contact me at (919) 541-5232. Please contact me at (919) 541-5232 for more information.





AFS Caucus Results from Conference Compiled

by Chuck Isbell

Do you recall having to stick those little red, green, and blue dots (with your agency name written on them) under the appropriate response for the handwritten questions on the flip charts? Now wasn't that fun? Do you hope to have the opportunity again sometime? Maybe next time we'll even make it more fun . . . er by blind folding everyone before sticking the little dots on the flip charts. If you do not recall such fun, then you probably missed the AFS Caucus Session at the AIRS Conference in Washington. I know all the caucus session attendees are just dying to hear the results to those questions relating to the future re-engineering of AFS or the enhancement of the National Emission Trends (NET) database.

First, let me bring everyone up-to-speed on the caucus session format and the ground rules.

Format

To facilitate the discussion topics, the AFS community was divided into three groups. Group I, consisted of all the EPA Regional, State and Local people for Regions 1 - 3; Group II, Regions 4 - 6; and Group III, Regions 7 - 10. Each group had two leaders. The leaders were given a flip chart with the questions and discussion topics and three sets of color dots. Red dots for the EPA Regional folks, green dots for the State folks, and blue dots for the Local folks.

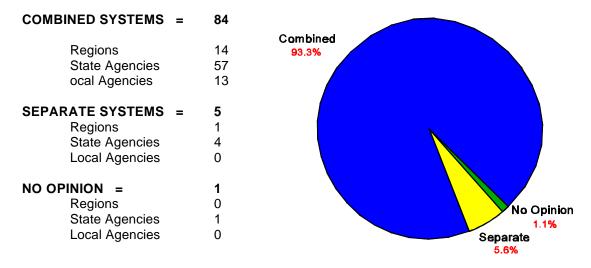
Ground Rules

Caucus session attendees were instructed to respond to the questions/issues by placing their color dot by the appropriate answer. For these type questions each agency was asked to reach consensus and place a dot for each of their agency's emission, compliance, and permitting programs. Other questions required a written response. Comments were encouraged.

Questions/Issues

Each caucus group was presented with the following questions/issues. The voting counts from the three groups are summarized with each question. (Note: not all questions were addressed by each group.) The detail results for each question (broken down by group) will be placed on the AIRS/AFS TTN Bulletin Board for your close review.

1. Would separate (but linked) systems for emissions and compliance data be better than the combined system we now have? Would a separate system enhance data submissions to EPA?



AIRSLetter Page: 9
Volume X - Edition 3
June, 1997

Continued from "AFS Caucus Results From Conference Compiled" - page 8

2. Will the National Emissions Trends (NET) Data Base meet your needs?

YES = 3
Regions 0
State Agencies 1
Local Agencies 2

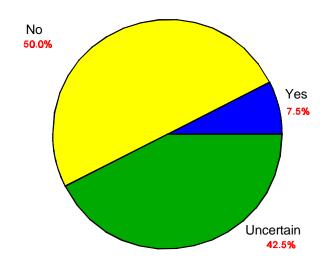
NO = 20
Regions 2
State Agencies 14
Local Agencies 4

UNCERTAIN = 17

Regions 2

State Agencies 9

Local Agencies 6



(Note: Group II, Regions 4 - 6, did not respond.)

3. The EIIP-EDI Data transfer format is intended to improve the flow of emissions data from agency to agency and to EPA. Is your agency planning to develop an EIIP-EDI data translator?

YES = 5

Regions 0

State Agencies 5

Local Agencies 0

NO = 3
Regions 0
State Agencies 3
Local Agencies 0

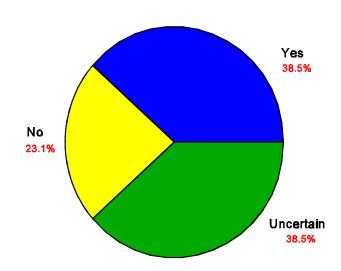
UNCERTAIN = 5

Regions 0

State Agencies 3

Local Agencies 2

(Note: only Group I, Regions 1 - 3, addressed this question.)



Now that you have seen the caucus results, you are probably wondering how we plan to use this information. We will use this information, along with other user requirement analysis, to help us reengineer the next generation of software. For example, the AIRS Conference attendees voted overwhelmingly in favor of an integrated emissions and compliance system for the next generation. We will use this information in support of our recommendation to OAQPS and OECA management that the next generation should be an integrated compliance and emissions system.

Special thanks to the following caucus group leaders for volunteering their time and abilities to lead the caucus group to address the questions and issues presented to them. Also, thanks to John, Jack, and Mark for summarizing their group's views in the Caucus Summary session.

Group 1 (Regions 1 - 3) - John Slade, PA & Betty Harris, Rg3

Group 2 (Regions 4 - 6) - Jack Lehman, TX &Bob Betterton, SC

Group 3 (Regions 7 - 10) - Mark Kendra, CO & Brenda Combs, Rg8

AIRSLetter Page: 10 Volume X - Edition 3 June, 1997

Additional Response Encouraged

by Chuck Isbell

Recall the memorandum "Plans for Managing Air Emissions, Compliance, and Permit Data" dated March 20, 1997. This memorandum from EPA division directors Tom Curran, Bill Hunt, and Fred Stiehl was sent to your State and Local Agency Directors, and was also presented and discussed at the National AIRS Conference in Washington.

The purpose of this memorandum was twofold. One was (as the title suggests) to inform your management of EPA's plans for managing the air emissions, compliance, and permit data. The second purpose was to obtain feedback (in writing) from your agency directors on the issues that will affect our directions for managing air data.

To date, we have received written responses from nine States, no Locals, and five EPA Regions. We were hoping to receive more responses, especially from the direct emission user States and Local Agencies. (By "direct emission user" I am referring to those agencies that use AFS as their agency's emissions system.) We would like to know the impacts (if any) that direct user agencies may experience if the next generation of AFS or NET database does not support direct users for emissions data as AFS currently does. There may not be an impact to some of these agencies. For example, a direct user agency may be planning to move off AFS and move to another system. If so, we would like to know what those plans are. So far, Virginia and New Mexico are the only direct emission States that have responded. Question four, on the last page of the memo, asks specifically about the future of direct user agencies if the EPA decides not support direct user agencies.

Many agencies probably feel that they gave us their feedback at the AIRS Conference in Washington. And it's true, we did receive feedback at the conference (see my article entitled "AIRS Conference - AFS Caucus Results"), but we would like to hear from State and Local management as well. It is not uncommon for our management to hear different things from your agency management than what we hear from our AFS users at the AIRS Conference.

You are encouraged to submit a written response to the memorandum. It is true that the memo requested feedback by April 14, 1997, but it is not too late. We are beginning to analyze the responses and plan to publish a summary of the findings.

AFS Data Available on INTERNET

by Jake Summers

Since the last AIRSLetter, I have received several calls with questions on the emissions data available on the INTERNET. These calls demonstrate that data are being accessed and used. The emissions are for the latest reported year demonstrating that some inventories are outdated. The specific calls were very specific and demonstrated that the users were familiar with the sources and that the data were questionable or that large differences existed between AFS and TRIS. The data that are available through the AIRS home page includes a list of the top 100 emitting plants for each criteria pollutant. The complete INTERNET address is: http://www.epa.gov/airs/afsdata.html. State users should access these home pages after updates to verify that their State does not have any plants listed that shouldn't be included. The data is updated each month. Users are encouraged to contact the specific State agency for errors or problems. Correcting AFS could reduce these calls.

Region III Develops WEB Page & Tracks MACT Plants In AIRS

by Betty Harris, USEPA - Region III

Region III, Air Radiation & Toxics Division (ARTD) developed an World Wide Web page that is currently shared by the entire agency and the public. The WWW page reports press releases, give summaries of enforcement cases and summarizes the rules, ie. MACT, CFCs, and AIRS. Just recently, the AFS Manager & an engineer from the ARTD Enforcement Cluster meet with and gave a demonstration to representatives of the SIERRA Club, Environmental Defense, and Clean Air Counsel on how to access the ARTD WWW page and the AIRS and IDEA databases. The focus of the demonstration was to highlight online sources of enforcement and compliance information such as how to get online copies of

AIRSLetter Page: 11
Volume X - Edition 3
June, 1997

Continued from "Region III Develops Web Page & Tracks MACT Plants in AFS" - page 10

standards, enforcement statistics, and case summaries of Region III actions.

Region III chooses to track Maximum Available Control Technology (MACT) CFR Part 63 sources in AIRS Facility Subsystem (AFS). Additionally, non-MACT and NESHAP sources with its subparts are tracked in AFS as well. Meanwhile, specific MACT sources, such as dry cleaners, chromium electroplaters, and degreasers are assigned unique plant identifications number by some of RIII's states. Federal inspections and enforcement actions can be obtained, as well as any state actions. The following are data fields we use to track Parts/Subparts in AFS:

Air Program Code (APC1) = M (MACT)

Region Action Type (ACD1) = RN (received notification)

Operating Status = O (Operating)

Pollutants = CRC (electroplating) chromium compounds

THAP (total HAPS) degreasers

HCS3 (perchloroethylene) dry cleaners

Subparts (SPT1) = RIII identifies specific MACT subparts for applicability RDE 16 = Facility Pollutant Types (see above pollutant table)

New Batch Update Software - Status Report

by Bill Frietsche

The new batch software has been in production since November 1996, and it offers much increased functionality over the old process. This was a large enhancement to AFS, and we have been working at polishing up the rough edges since then. I have been pleased with the progress we have been making, and I can now see the light at the end of the tunnel!

I have tried to let you know about any of the bugs that we knew about which were of major concern. I have E-mailed out memos to everyone I have E-Mail address for explaining work around procedures for some of the bugs. Also, if you look in the data set called "AIRA.AFS.BATCH", you can read the same memos. The TRC help line has also tried to support anyone calling in with problems. Please let me know if you have any unresolved problems regarding the new batch software.

We have completed approximately 40 fixes, and have a few more left. The "Notification" portion of the software now works properly in all cases. We are working on the 10-6 card problem now, and it may be completed by the time you read this. We are also correcting any discrepancies between the compare, edit and update programs so that all of the edits are "in-sync".

I would like to re-iterate the need to have RACF (mainframe security) set up properly. We developed a procedure for each EPA Regional office to establish the appropriate RACF profiles for every AFS user on the accounts they manage. It is no longer something the individual users need to worry about. Regions who have not completed this task should do so. For those of you who have completed this, thank you for making the time to do so.

If any one experiences a problem (RACF or otherwise), please call the AFS Help line, or me. I can be reached at (919) 541-5451. Thanks.

Note on Merging AFS Data

by Bill Frietsche

There are five States left to merge. We have started working with New York, but the rest are not yet underway. I would like to make a plea to finish this task.

There are relatively "easy ways out" to get merged and leave some of the data clean-up for later. While I don't endorse leaving things for later, sometimes it's better to get a portion of the work completed. And in the case of merging, you cannot get rid of the indirect compliance ids unless you go through the merge project with me. This is special software that only we can run for you, which merges your compliance air program data from multiple indirect plant ids down into one CDS ID.

AIRSLetter Page: 12 Volume X - Edition 3 June, 1997

Continued from "Note on Merging AFS Data" - page 11

Ways to shortcut - forget about the emissions side, you can work on that later. Forget about all compliance plants that do not have associated indirect ids, these plants don't have compliance data to merge. For the compliance plants that do have data to merge (the multiple indirect id plants), you only need to deal with the ones that have compliance points with the same point number created under both indirect ids (usually a small subset of a small number of plants).

I will identify these plants and points for you and we can make a decision on how to deal with the duplicate points (delete them, renumber them uniquely, or merge them together). Then the merge utility can be run for the test, and then for production data, and then you are done!



It is IMPORTANT to get merged now for 2 reasons:

- 1) My work assignment ends in September. I do not know if we will be supporting the merge effort with our own budget any longer. So you would have to find your own resources.
- 2) It would be a lot of work and complexity to continue to support the concept of linked indirect ids. Let's get rid of them now so they do not have to be addressed later.

Adding Permit Data to the AFS Plant Compliance Inventory Fixed Format Report (AFP627)

by Bill Frietsche

We have had quite a few requests to enhance the compliance inventory report (AFP627) to include permit event tracking data. Enhancing the report to include permit data will allow users to see all of the compliance data, and the permit issuance data as well in one "easy to use" report. This should make responding to FOIA's simpler, and also paint a more integrated picture of what is happening at the source.

We are working on this enhancement now, and hope to have the report ready by the end of the fiscal year. When it is completed, you will be able to select and retrieve on permit and compliance data.

Another benefit of this enhancement is that we will implementing the new "standard" front end screens on the report, similar to the other recently modified reports, including the critical data element report, the two permit reports, and the MACT report.

You will be able to select any air program code as part of this enhancement. The old report had air program codes hard coded into the selection screen; the new report style allows you to select based on any codes available on the system tables. So even if new codes are added into the system in the future, the report will be able to use them. This concept applies to any of the codes used for selection and display in the report, including class codes, operating status, etc.